

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 HUD-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 EB-08 EA-12 FRB-01 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-11
NSAE-00 ICA-20 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 DOE-15 SOE-02 PA-02
HA-05 AF-10 ARA-14 /174 W

-----115774 162047Z /70

P 161834Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1578

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USOECD

PASS COMMERCE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT HALL,
DAS HAROLD WILLIAMS, AND DAVID A. PETERSON; AND HUD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: URBAN CONCERNS AND REGIONAL POLICIES

REF: C(78)50

1. MISSION WAS RECENTLY INFORMED THAT SWEDISH
PERMREP WILL CONTACT CHARGE KATZ SHORTLY TO DISCUSS

SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSAL ON URBAN CONCERNS IN
CONTEXT OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE'S WORKING PARTY 6 ON
REGIONAL POLICIES. SWEDISH REP TOLD MISSION OFFICERS
THE GOS IS INTERESTED IN WIDENING OECD ACTIVITIES
WHICH RELATE TO REGIONAL POLICIES AND NOTED THAT
WHILE WP6 WAS ONLY OECD BODY SOLELY CONCERNED WITH
REGIONAL POLICIES, OTHER SECTORAL WORK HAS
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REGIONAL ASPECTS (E.G., MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE). SWEDISH FEEL, THEREFORE,
THAT SOME COORDINATING MECHANISM SHOULD BE FOUND, AND
SUGGEST THAT BROADENING MANDATE OF WP6 TO INCLUDE
URBAN CONCERNS MAY BE VIABLE SOLUTION.

2. SWEDISH REP SAID SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSAL ON

URBAN QUESTIONS WAS OF GREAT INTEREST AND A TIMELY INITIATIVE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. NOTE C(78)50 UNDERESTIMATES POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POLICIES, AND OBSERVED CLOSE AFFINITY BETWEEN REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICIES IN SWEDEN, FRANCE AND U.K.

3. SPECIFIC ISSUE THAT SWEDISH PERM REP WILL RAISE WITH US WILL BE OUR VIEWS ON THE CREATION OF AN "AD HOC GROUP ON URBAN AND REGIONAL CONCERNS" WHICH COULD PROVIDE THE COORDINATION MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE/ TALKING POINTS ON SWEDISH PROPOSAL ASAP.

5. FOLLOWING ARE EXERPTS FROM SWEDISH NOTE:
BEGIN TEXT:

IT IS NOW NOT POSSIBLE TO GET A COMPLETE OVERVIEW OF HOW MANY PROJECTS WITH A REGIONAL LEANING THAT ARE IN PROGRESS WITHIN THE OECD. THERE IS THUS A NEED FOR AN ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE OECD THAT TAKES A RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

- COMPILING RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT ONGOING ACTIVITIES TOUCHING REGIONAL QUESTIONS
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- ANALYZING THE RELEVANCE OF THIS INFORMATION FOR REGIONAL POLICY

- IDENTIFYING OVERLAPPINGS BETWEEN THE PROJECTS, AND, WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT

- IDENTIFYING FIELDS OF INTEREST NOT DEALT WITH BY THE RELEVANT ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE OECD.

THERE ARE NUMEROUS DEMANDS FOR ORGANIZATIONS OF THE "UMBRELLA TYPE" DISCUSSED HERE. AS REGIONAL POLICY BY DEFINITION IS TRANSSECTORAL THERE ARE EXTRA GOOD REASONS WHY SUCH AN ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE ACCEPTED WITHIN THIS FIELD.

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR A CONCRETE PROPOSAL AS TO HOW THE COORDINATION SHOULD BE ORGANIZED.

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WP6 OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE IS ONE ALTERNATIVE.
BUT AGAINST SUCH A SOLUTION SPEAKS THE RELATIVELY NAR-
ROW MANDATE OF THE WORKING PARTY. A LARGE PART OF THE
MEMBERS ARE PRIMARILY DEALING WITH INCENTIVES TO
INDUSTRY AND HAVE NOT A SUFFICIENTLY BROAD APPROACH
TO REGIONAL POLICY QUESTIONS.

ORGANIZATION OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON URBAN CONCERNS

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION HAS SUBMITTED A PAPER
IN WHICH IS OUTLINED HOW THE RECENT PROPOSAL ON
URBAN QUESTIONS BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD BE
HANDLED BY THE OECD. THE PAPER CONTAINS MUCH OF GREAT
INTEREST TO THE URBAN QUESTION AND IS A TIMELY INITIA-
TIVE, BUT THE POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL POLICY
IS GROSSLY UNDERESTIMATED. (POSSIBLY THERE ARE OTHER
INADEQUACIES). IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT THE BALANCE
BETWEEN URBAN AREAS AND BETWEEN THE REST OF THE
COUNTRY -- WHICH IS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE OF A
SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL URBAN POLICY -- IS ALMOST
INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM A REGIONAL POLICY WITH THE SAME
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AIM. IN SWEDEN THE MONITORING OF GROWTH IN THE

METROPOLITAN AREAS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF REGIONAL POLICY AND THE INNER SOCIAL BALANCE INSIDE THESE AREAS IS A VERY CENTRAL GOAL OF THE PRESENT REGIONAL POLICY. THE EXAMPLES THAT CAN BE TAKEN FROM E.G. FRANCE AND UK ON A REGIONAL POLICY AIMING AT A CALIBRATION OF GROWTH OF METROPOLITAN AREAS, SHOWS AN EVEN CLOSER AFFINITY BETWEEN REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICIES.

TO SUM UP THE ARGUMENT AT THIS POINT: THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME POSSIBILITIES THAT THE TWO ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS DISCUSSED COULD BE GIVEN ONE SOLUTION.

THE WP6 CAN AND SHOULD NOT ALONE REPRESENT THE REGIONAL ASPECT AGAINST THE NEW AD HOC GROUP AND NEITHER CAN THE AD HOC GROUP -- IF THE PRESENT U.S. PROPOSAL IS FOLLOWED. THE BEST SOLUTION IS PROBABLY THAT THE AD HOC GROUP GETS TERMS OF REFERENCE THAT ARE SO WIDE THAT THE REGIONAL POLICY ASPECT IS SUFFICIENTLY OBSERVED AND THAT CARE IS TAKEN WHEN THE GROUP IS CONSTITUTED THAT YOU GET A PROPER REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH THIS ASPECT.

THIS WOULD SOLVE THE DOUBLE PROBLEM OF CREATING AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL POLICY QUESTIONS WITHIN THE OECD (POSSIBLY NAMED "THE AD HOC GROUP ON URBAN AND REGIONAL CONCERNS") AND GETTING AN ORGANIZATION OF THE PROPOSED AD HOC GROUP WHICH GIVES IT A MORE WIDE AND RELEGANT DIRECTION.

END TEXT

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